

Men Make Houses; Women Make Homes

Beyond To-Morrow's Mystic Gates

The New Year lies in the unexplored country upon which these gates are opening and the mind of a woman turns at once toward its allurement and its promise.

It is not natural to believe that the new year will bring compensation for the disappointments and troubles of the old. The optimism of the future looks so fair and beckons so invitingly. Failures are left behind. Success stands waiting beyond the "Mystic Gates," and life's measure is to be attained to a joyous and confident strain.

It is not much worth a woman's while to make New Year resolutions. To-morrow is apt to find and to leave her pretty much what she is to-day—a human entity swayed by the same influences and thinking the same thoughts. She may not achieve anything better or better in purpose and aim than heretofore. The daily grind may oppress her with the same sense of friction and monotony. Or the rapid round of fashionable life may seem as "futile, flat and unprofitable" as ever. There will come times when she will lose heart and purpose and seem to be of little use to herself or any one else.

Before the opening gates. It is well for a woman to be honest with herself as she stands before the opening gates. It is a good thing if she reminds herself of her limitations of environment and position. If she frankly admits that in human possibility there seems no likelihood of her doing anything great or wonderful, or of anything great or wonderful coming to her, if she realizes that she is just

one of millions of other women to whom the same destiny is to be meted out, she will be saved much disillusion, and will find herself in her place in the new year much quicker.

Not a Receiver, But a Giver.

It is not a question of how much to-morrow will bring a woman, but a question of what she will give to that to-morrow. If she has but little, let her make her offering with so much cheerfulness and gladness of heart as to render it worthy a king's acceptance. If she has much, let the part of herself that goes into the whole render it splendid indeed. If her way in life lies along the humble, the suffering and the sorrowing, out of each day of to-morrow she may build a memorial of helpful words and little kindnesses as fragrant and beautiful as flowers. If the advantages of wealth and position have removed her from contact with the care-worn people of ordinary existence, so much greater is her accountability to that to-morrow which contains possibilities for her that she may make unending, if she chooses.

In looking toward to-morrow a woman is apt to fix her eyes and hope on the big and not on the little things. And yet life is made up of both, and the little things are the chain on which the big things are strung. If To-Morrow teaches just the lesson, that the woman who really gives of herself, which day's demands, that service which is necessary to answer them in full, has attained to the practice of life's truest and noblest philosophy, then To-Morrow will have more than answered the question of its coming.

Rag Doll in Peasant's Dress

There are dolls and dolls which are welcomed to the hearts of their little owners and cherished by them tenderly as their dearest possessions. The faintly bedecked Rag doll may represent the ascendancy among these for specially grand occasions, but for ordinary daily wear and companionship, nothing can outrank the rag doll, which is most adaptable of all. Modern fashion in doll-doll sanctions the rag doll in peasant dress, and, as a whole, they are of unusual countenance, some home-made looking, others done by foreign artists in the toy districts of Germany, but all of them suggesting the possibility of at least home dressing.

A very little study of the peasant dress of each foreign country will prove their origin, and supply copy for the mother who is chief doll-maker for her own children.

Coarse bits of dress materials, left-overs of crimson are blue; odds and ends of ribbon and velvet; pieces of gingham, and even of plaid wool, to use for the peasant apron, will be the necessary equipment for the outfit.

The gathered gingham apron is as much a part of the peasant garment as are the sleeves made of material unlike the rest of the dress.

These dolls of different countries are an education and a joy; as interesting to make as they are lovable when finished.

Embroidered Linen Sets.

Embroidered white linen sashes, and gowns as well as nightgowns, are delicately trimmed with the choice selections made by, or for, women of good taste. Piece-pieces are also included in the sets—when gifts are made in that way, as they frequently are. Where one's bedroom is furnished in pale-colored materials, or in cretonnes, the same white linen or linen-cambrie embroidered sofa and chair cushions are very much in vogue.

Fashion in Fur Capes.

The fur cape of to-day is more becoming than those of fifteen, or more, years ago. With more grace they fall loosely over the shoulders, allowing more freedom to the arms. Some of them are shaped round at the back, touching the waist line, and falling only a little lower in front. Others are shaped like a square, and worn with a point over each arm, and one in the back, while the fourth is split for the opening; these front points are lengthened to the knee. Very smart is a pointed cape affair made of three bands of chinilla, fur, mounted on grey mouseline de soie, laid in fine plaits, and showing between the fur bands.

The New Blouses.

Delightful are the new blouses made of small figured toile de Jouy, and covered with a transparency—usually mouseline de soie—of black, or a dark shade matching the gown. The gaily colored figures, set on a creamy ground, have a ravishing effect

through the veiling material. The Jouy rises above the thin material to shape a yoke framing the white or cream chemise, which, with its jabot, is quite imperative as a finish to all smart blouses. The Jouy blouse I found so charming was covered with black mouseline; two half-inch tucks were run in it at each side of the front and back. It closed at one side with a plaited black frill under a line of large buttons covered with toile de Jouy.

Soundly simple, does it not? Yet such blouses are frightfully expensive by reason of the small figured toile de Jouy being exceedingly difficult to find.

Next to the large, all-enveloping veil of black Chantilly lace, the smartest velle are of pale brown or deep cream Chantilly. In American fashion they cover the hat, fastening at the back of the neck with pretty pins.

Envelope Leather Bags.

Envelope bags that are extremely flat can be slipped into a muff. They are made of pigskin, either crushed or glazed, and can be had in all colors. A tiny case of white leather which can be slipped into a glove of its owner is fully equipped for the hasty last touch in a dressing-room.

Handies of leather are secured by gold or silver buckles, and can be shortened or lengthened at will.

Huge flat pigskin cases with convenient straps are being carried. These are capacious enough to hold many tiny flat parcels which accumulate on your shopping trip.

A leather receptacle fitted with tiny books, each marked with the name of a large city of Europe, is a novel solution for your traveling friend. He can keep expenses, hotel and items of interest of each city and its environs in a special book.

There are extremely complete medicine cases, with bandages, plasters and vials, supplemented by tiny drawers for tablets and pills.

An ingenious traveling kit of leather, with compartments for cord, tags, paste and some tiny practical carpenter's tools.

Ornamental and Useful.

The workbag that looks like a rose is as ornamental as it is useful. Never in the history of bag making have ideas soared so high. The present-day bag is ravishing in color, and has taken on many remarkable shapes. Those that are possible in appearance offer an opportunity for the incorporation of the beautiful, deep-rose-colored satin ribbons. Petals of six-inch width fold upward like the outer petals of a rose over a centre of pink and yellow pompadour ribbon shirred into the shape of a round bag. Both are fastened to a round bottom, and the upper edges of the petals are rolled between thumb and finger and stitched into a curled edge. They are merely tacked against the sides of the bag as loosely as possible, so that they will retain the flower shape.



The Gradual Shortening of the Coat Is a Noticeable Feature of Mid-Winter Models.

—Vogue.

The Domestication of the Working Woman

"Don't you think," said a bright-eyed, alert young woman, who confessed that she had gone to a public school graduate to her present well-managed desk, and had remained at it since, "don't you think that working women appreciate and enjoy domestication more genuinely than any other class of humanity?"

The question aroused a lurking and a sympathetic response, reposing hitherto unconsciously in the mind of the listener. A picture crossed the line of mental vision of a woman, who, having faced the daily and ordinary round of duty or occupation in a business office, or from a professional standpoint, looks forward with genuine pleasure to an evening at home, in the midst of a family circle, or with a book and a cozy fire, enjoying good company and a sense of restfulness that blots out from the mind all the worry and friction which contact with the world inevitably produces.

Comparing Inner and Outer Life.

The working woman, when she really works, has the opportunity of comparing the inner life with the outer and of knowing what can be gotten out of each. If she gives herself to her vocation she can only be, in regard to society, an onlooker. This renders her more than ever clear-sighted. She realizes that if she is to count as a factor in achieving anything of worth for herself and others, she must learn, first of all, to fight against self-indulgence, especially the self-indulgence of dress and extravagance.

As she withdraws herself thus from the circle of the leisure sisterhood,

whose chief aim in life tends toward the decorative in effect and the pursuit of personal amusement, her thoughts, centre more and more around an inner shrine where her affections and interests concentrate and where her life blossoms out into fullest expansion and expression.

Habits of System and Order.

The real working woman has learned habits of system and order through the force of her environment and the influence of her training. These habits stand her in good stead when she cultivates the domestic side of her nature, enabling her to set a good example to those who may serve her, or maintaining the labor of an establishment in which she does her own work. Because she has responded to the apportionment of work herself, she knows what to expect from others, and is not capricious or unreasonable over inevitable weaknesses and shortcomings.

White Swiss or Mull.

White swiss or mull is successful material for the covering of the baby pillow when transparency is an object. Linen, although of a sheer quality, will often conceal the colored cover beneath.

One of the best swiss pillow covers has been sewn up each side and left open at each end, where it was scalloped and provided with eyelets two inches from the extreme edges for ribbons, which held the back and front together and the rose-colored silk pillow inside.

Plus Harmonize in Color.

Velvet-pins are worn, and those who attend to the important details of dress aim at a color harmony with the rest of the costume. One is used to hold the veil on the top of the head and another at the back of the neck.

Best Home-makers.

Having thus reviewed the tendency of business or professional influences upon a woman's nature, it will be seen that the ordinary prejudice against such a career unfitting her for the

province of homemaker or housekeeper is eliminated. Inquiry into real facts proves that real workers among women are those who possess the strongest love for home and are the best adapted to make it all it should be and all that its name implies.

Clothes and Character.

Grace Margaret Gould is "responsive" for the following suggestions as to clothes and character. She says in a woman's magazine for January:

Long ago the wise woman learned that clothes often tell tales as to character. And of all the tale-bearing clothes none can equal the dresses a woman wears about the house in the morning.

Do you take pride in your home and are you willing to work yourself to always keep it its shining best? Then let your clothes, which you wear in

the morning when you are busy about the home duties, indicate these characteristics of yours most plainly. To-day there is no excuse for a woman not to look neatly and tastefully dressed in the morning. There are so many materials for her to choose from which laundries to perfection and wear well, too. And there are so many designs ready to create for clothes for morning wear that she need have no difficulty in finding her own individual preference.

Two-piece dresses for morning wear are quite as much the vogue as the one-piece dress. Many of them, however, have the princess effect, though they consist of a separate waist and skirt, for the belt which is made of the same fabric is joined to the skirt, thus giving the costume effect. The separate belt made of ribbon or elastic belting in a contrasting shade from the dress is not as good style as it used to be, though with the shirtwaist suit the black belt will never be wholly discarded.

The Self-Conscious Girl.

"The girl who thinks constantly about self is a good deal like the girl who is constantly glancing at herself in the mirror," says Anne B. McCall in Woman's Home Companion for January. Have you ever noticed how by and by people turn away from such a girl to some one whose eyes can meet theirs self-forgetfully, some one whose attention they can keep?

So the girl is finally left alone with herself and the mirror. In the same way the girl who falls into the habit of thinking of self is gradually left more and more alone. Her life becomes gradually more and more isolated. Do you girls know what the word 'isolated' means? The word 'isola' is the Italian for 'island'—cut off, that is, from the mainland. The life of the girl who talks and thinks about self is gradually more and more cut off from all the wonderful main-land of human sympathy and interests. She is cut off from helping others as others are cut off from helping her. The world of joy and sorrow and interest and love goes on without her.

"Who are the most delightful and sympathetic people you know? The ones, I will warrant, whose lives are a part of the mainland of human life who, when they meet you, are not so eager to tell you of their health and their affairs as they are eager to know about yours. And the most entertaining in charming conversation? They are those who tell you about other people, not those who tell you about themselves; they are those who interest you in things outside themselves and yourself. And the most beautiful lives? The rule applies here, too. They are those which have forgotten themselves in love for others."

Tea Table Cabinet.

Just above the tea-table of one box, pitiable woman, within easy reach and matching it in the matter of wood and finish, hangs a pretty cabinet with glass doors.

In this little cupboard the tea-cups, sugar-bowl and other hospitable furnishings are kept within easy reach. Whenever a cup of tea is to be offered to a guest, it is the work of a moment to lift them down.

Left on the table, the "tea things" become dusty and dingy even when the little people of the family or a boisterous pet of the beastie sort does not cause a dowdiness of china more interesting than the house-mistress than the one effected by the European allies. The tea-table cabinet is one way of insuring the "five-o'clock" in dainty fashion and with the least possible trouble to the entertainer.

The Ingenuity of the Well-Dressed Woman

Trust a woman's ingenuity for getting her way in the matter of being well dressed, and yet of having things her own way. Long sleeves are worn this winter, but instead of bracelets being relegated to the jewel casket, they have been merely put on over the sleeves, and the wearer now tries to match the general ornamentation by different styles of metal bands.

Duit-finished gold or silver seems to form an approved setting for semi-precious stones, and these "antiques" made to order are reasonable enough to admit of a fair-sized collection. The well-dressed woman changes her bracelets with her gowns.

Egyptian, Russian, Italian and Indian jewelry form the models for these lovely ornaments. They give an appropriate finish to gowns that trace their lines back to the other centuries. They are certainly more artistic than the shiny, plain bands of gold. Their colorful lines are effective additions to day and evening gowns.

Chinchilla Still Favored.

Despite the costliness and increasing rarity of chinchilla, this fur is still a favorite for the fortunate ones who can make use of it. In many long coats representing the limit of luxury the skins are placed horizontally at the lower part of the coat, forming a deep hem. The sleeves, too, are arranged in this way.

Innovations in lining are always noticeable. Some of these chinchilla coats are lined with gray satin, and three accordion-pleated flounces of chiffon are added.

They are graduated in size, and are headed with a band of silver embroidered net.

A comfortable abundance of pockets of various sizes is to be found on all of the new models. These are tucked away in the lining so cleverly that no bulkiness is evident.

Silk Voile Popular.

Among the afternoon frocks designed for indoors, silk voile models, with short sleeves and without collars, seem to be having a popularity in both England and France, and this promises an early adoption of the comfortable style over here.

The lines of a princess robe are used, and the bodice is cut square at the neck. This opening is filled in with a tucked net chemise, and under-sleeves to match extend to the wrist.

These lace accessories insure a renewal, and therefore a constant freshness at the neck and arms.

Very attractive gowns are made of white crepe de chine printed with various colors in a line that forms a Paisley border.

Frequently this border is used for the sleeves and bodice, and the skirt is made of the plain color. Soft folds can be used to advantage, and a draped princess effect is also becoming.

Of course, for women who must consider the cleaner bill these little house frocks are made of soft shades with borders which blend with the general tone. Simplicity is the keynote, and the relief offered by this factor makes these dresses particularly adapted for comfortable and modish wear in the home.

Woman's Loyalty to Woman.

If women were loyal to each other many of the problems which are now being discussed would be problems no longer.

It is the eternal interest of women to stand together on all questions of general welfare, from an industrial or social point of view. Women know this in their hearts, but because every woman desires above all else the thing that seems most essential to her individual comfort or welfare, not one is willing to merge such desires into whatever is best for all. Thus they remain eternally apart.

Women realize that to accomplish something really worth while by means of organizations to which they belong, concert of action is required. But they had rather face disorganization than surrender an opinion, or

turn aside from forcing an issue that is bound to prove disastrous. In matters of household management and domestic economy much could be gained by mutual understanding and support. But methods and administrations are widely at variance, and not a finger will a woman lift to render them less so.

In all walks of life, wherever they are to be found, women are pursuing their way, each without reference to the other, and but few actuated by the purpose that culminates in loyal and sympathetic understanding and support.

Women need, above everything else, to be educated to be true to their sex. They would gain immeasurably in self-respect and in the estimation of others if they stood shoulder to shoulder in the march of progress and development.

It is vain to aim or plan in behalf of a sex the members of which are untrue to the one to the other. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and, until women learn the necessity of sex loyalty, they will be forever at a disadvantage.

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